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NOTES AND NEWS.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Society will be held at Mendelssohn Hall, No. 119 West Fortieth Street, on Tuesday, January 22d, 1901, at 8.30 o'clock, P.M. The order of Proceedings will be:

Election of Fellows.

Reports of Council and Treasurer.

Report of Committee on Nominations.

Election of Officers.

A. F. Schauffler, D.D., will read a lecture on Constantinople, with illustrations.

At the regular meeting, on the 20th of February, Mr. George F. Becker, of the U. S. Geological Survey, will read a paper on the Philippine Islands.

SURVEYS MADE by the ship *Nero*, for two years past, under orders of the Navy Department, for the purpose of laying a telegraph cable between the United States and the Philippine Islands, have added to the knowledge of the abyss in the Pacific on the route between the Midway Islands and the island of Guam. This abyss was previously known to be rather more than 1,900 fathoms in depth, but on the westward voyage of the *Nero* 4,913 fathoms of line were run out in an attempt to sound without reaching bottom.

In further explorations of this Nero Deep, as it is now called, Commander Hodges found bottom at 5,160 fathoms and 5,269 fathoms.

MR. G. MELVILLE BOYNTON, of Coaldale, Pleasant Valley, Hayden Creek Mining District, Colorado, sends the official map of his projected route to the North Pole by the air-ship *Columbia*.

This ship will be constructed at Coaldale, and the expedition will start on or about July 15, 1903, from Cape McClintock, Parry Islands, for the North Pole, and thence to North Cape, Spitzbergen.

IT IS ANNOUNCED that Captain J. E. Bernier, of Quebec, has the support of the Royal Geographical Society for a North Pole expedition. He hopes to be aided by the British Government.

Captain Bernier will travel by the route taken by the wreck of the *Jeannette*. He says:

In the Polar Circle, from off the shores of Siberia, the most frequent winds are from the east and southeast, thus carrying the ice to the north and northwest and

drawing it against the shores of Franz Josef's Land, Spitzbergen and Greenland. In the Polar Circle, on the North American coast, on the contrary, the wind blows from the west and northwest, pushing the ice to the east and southeast, on the shores of North Greenland and Grinnell Land, where it accumulates from year to year and forms those eternal masses, or "hummocks," which Markham, who explored this part of the Polar Circle, says tower many feet above the moving ice. If we draw a line from Behring Strait to North Greenland we divide the Polar basin into two parts. The western part is formed of an immense block of ice bearing upon the shore of North America, which forms an impassable barrier to the pole. The eastern portion is formed by ice which has drifted from the coast of Siberia and Behring Strait, and pursues the course of the wind. When it approaches the pole it increases in thickness and volume, forming the "hummocks," which Dr. Nansen found to be about thirty feet high. These are no doubt higher nearer the pole.

Captain Bernier believes that the polar basin is a frozen ocean, over which his dogs and reindeer may make their way on ice, for the most part, free of impediment. He purposes to enter on the Siberian side, near the Lena, or Bennett Island, and proceed at the rate of four miles a day. He will take 120 reindeer and a rubber raft capable of carrying 18,000 pounds, thirty sledges made of aluminum and wood, and food enough to last two and a half years, though he believes he will return in eighteen months. The members of the expedition are to be the commander, one geological surveyor, six selected men, and one man to take charge of the dogs and reindeer. The captain's reputation as a navigator is very high; Nansen thinks he may succeed, and so does Dr. Dawson.

A CORRESPONDENT in Lima sends the following note, furnished by the writer:

In their reply to the pupils of the Italian schools, the inmates of the Lima Orphan Asylum express themselves in these words: "We have received the news of a terrible disaster at Galveston. Such is life; one moment we enjoy pleasure and another we suffer grief. Send to this distressed population the golden urn which, with Christian intention, was donated to us. We send it with the permission of the Director of the Benevolent Institute as a contribution to the funds for the aid of the sufferers by the Galveston disaster. We have nothing else at our disposal."

The golden urn referred to was discovered June 14, 1899, in a burying-ground of the old Peruvians in the Monjas section of an estate called Monte Rico Grande, about four miles from Lima. The urn weighs 224 grammes. It is not made of gold, but of a compound similar to the *electrum* of the ancients. It has on two sides human heads, with the large nose of the prehistoric Peruvian race.

G. R. GEPP.

Oct. 31, 1900.

A LETTER to the *Evening Post* under date of December 1, written from Cocoa, Florida, gives some account of the Seminole Indians in the Everglades.

According to the census of 1900, these Indians number 339. The letter says:

That the tribes are doomed to speedy dissolution may be readily believed when one realizes that where two years ago hundreds of acres were cultivated in corn, peas, rice, pumpkins and potatoes, there are now, by actual observation, but two acres. The young bucks devote their time to trapping and hunting, and at the near-by stores of the whites exchange hides and fresh game for the necessities formerly produced by them on their own ground. . . .

The Indians of Florida have persistently refused to occupy any certain locality that has ever been selected for them by either the United States or the State Government. . . . These 339 Indians are divided into five tribes or "families," all under one "big chief," who has in each tribe a representative or sub-chief. These "families" are scattered over the State in several localities, and from this fact probably arose the confusion as to their numbers. They are generally friendly with the whites. The younger men answer questions promptly in fair English; the older ones speak little or no English. Men predominate among them, forming almost two-thirds of the entire number. Among them are many modern conveniences of civilized life—sewing machines, cooking stoves, mirrors; and plenty of table furnishings—plates, cups and saucers, and knives and forks. The men wear a queue, coiled on top of the head under the turban, after the manner of the Chinese; the woman "bangs" her hair across the front and coils the rest on the top of her head also. Around her neck she wears as many strings of beads as she can carry, and strung across her breast are hammered silver coins representing the wealth of her father or her husband. The children are generally naked until about twelve years old, when the girls don a dress and the boys a breech-cloth. All are barefoot except the men, who generally wear deerskin moccasins.

M. HENRYK ARCTOWSKI, a member of the *Belgica* expedition, sketches, in the review *Ciel et Terre*, of November 1, a plan for international co-operation with the Antarctic expeditions of 1901.

These are the English and the German, and the Argentine expedition to the South Shetlands, with observers stationed on Staten Island. There is yet time, he says, to make the year 1902 a year of international observations in the Southern Hemisphere by establishing a polygon of meteorological stations, comprising the following points:

Punta-Arenas, Staten Island, Cape Pillar, and one of the Diego Ramirez islands, southwest of Cape Horn; the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and South Shetland, and one or two points on the lands discovered by the *Belgica*.

Such a network of observations would furnish a thorough knowledge of the meteorology of all that part of the Antarctic and form a most important contribution to the study of the atmospherical circulation.

MR. EDWIN SWIFT BALCH, of Philadelphia, sends this note:

ICEBERGS IN GLACIER BAY.—On the 14th of July, 1900, I visited Glacier Bay, Alaska, on the steamer *Queen*. At a distance of about twenty kilometres from Muir Glacier we found a line of icebergs, some twenty to thirty metres wide, extending

completely across the bay. The steamer went through this barrier very slowly, gradually pushing the bergs aside. Beyond this the bay was studded with icebergs, among which the *Queen* took a more or less zigzag course up to within about seven kilometres from the snout of Muir Glacier, where a barrier of icebergs stretched from shore to shore across the bay and extended all the way up to the glacier. These bergs were not floe-ice at all, but genuine glacier bergs. Many of them were good-sized ones, rising certainly six or eight metres above the water. On some of them there were boulders, on many there was moraine dirt, on others there was snow, and in some the glacier crevasses remained, showing the blue and green colors of such crevasses. In some cases the bergs had evidently turned over in the water. A noticeable feature was a projecting shelf of ice at the surface of the water, showing that the ice had melted away fastest underneath. The icebergs are said to be due to an earthquake, in the fall of 1899, fracturing a portion of the snout of Muir Glacier; but, as far as could be seen through marine glasses, the glacier was unaffected by the loss of all this ice. The scene was Arctic in character and, with the peaks of Fairweather and Crillon occasionally peeping out through the clouds at a height of over 4,500 metres, was a grand sight. It may be worth noting that the Crillon-Fairweather range is unexplored, and that it offers to climbers the finest array of unascended summits in America.

THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA, QUEENSLAND, will award the Thompson Foundation Medal (in gold) to the author of the best original paper (to be sent in not later than the 15th of June, 1902), on The Pastoral Industry of Australia, past, present, and probable future.

The competition is open to Members and Non-Members of the Society alike, whether residing in Australasia or elsewhere. No award will be made for a compilation.

All competitive communications for the Medal should be written on one side of the paper only, with marginal space on the left-hand side thereof. Instead of the writer's name each paper must be identified by a motto. A sealed envelope with such motto written outside, and the writer's name and address inside, should accompany each paper.

The successful papers will be published in the Journal of the Society, fifty reprint copies of each being supplied to the author, free.

All communications must be written in the English language, and will become the property of the Society.

Papers may be illustrated by maps, diagrams and pictures.

All communications should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary of the Society.

HUGH M. NELSON, President.

J. P. THOMPSON, Hon. Secretary.

THE SOCIETY'S ROOMS, 102 Elizabeth Street,
Brisbane, Queensland, October 2nd, 1900.

THE SOCIÉTÉ KHÉDIVIALE DE GÉOGRAPHIE celebrated, on the 11th of December, the twenty-fifth anniversary of its foundation. The Société has had a remarkable career, and it deserves the congratulations of all who are interested in geography.